

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please amend the drawings as requested in the Request for Approval of Drawing Change filed January 29, 2002.

**REMARKS**

Applicants submit this Substitute Preliminary Amendment and Appendix to Substitute Preliminary Amendment Dated July 10, 2002, in reply to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment ("Notice") mailed June 10, 2002.

Applicants note that the papers for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/058,004 ("the '004 application") filed on January 29, 2002, included a Preliminary Amendment, an associated Appendix to Preliminary Amendment Dated January 29, 2002 ("Appendix"), and a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment and Request That an Interference Be Declared ("Supplemental Amendment").

The Notice does not specify whether the Notice applies to the Preliminary Amendment and Appendix or to the Supplemental Amendment. Additionally, despite repeated telephone calls to both the responsible Legal Instrument Examiner ("LIE") and the LIE's supervisor at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") over a week-long period, the undersigned Applicants' representative has been unable to determine whether the Notice applies to the Preliminary Amendment and Appendix or to the Supplemental Amendment. This problem is due, at least in part, to the apparent absence of the LIE from the USPTO and, at least in part, due to the inability of the USPTO to locate the file for the '004 application.

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The undersigned Applicants' representative does not believe that the Notice properly applies to either the Preliminary Amendment and Appendix or the Supplemental Amendment. However, a response to the Notice is due today (July 10, 2002) and the time limit for the response is not extendable.

Therefore, in a good-faith effort to comply with the Notice, Applicants' representative submits this Substitute Preliminary Amendment and Appendix to Substitute Preliminary Amendment Dated July 10, 2002. The Substitute Preliminary Amendment differs from the Preliminary Amendment primarily in that the headings and subheadings added to the specification in the Substitute Preliminary Amendment are not formatted to include underlining.

Before entry of this Substitute Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-54 were pending in this application. After entry of this Substitute Preliminary Amendment, claim 1 is pending in this application. Upon subsequent entry of the Supplemental Amendment, claims 55-73 will be pending in this application.

In this Substitute Preliminary Amendment, Applicants add section headings and section subheadings to conform to U.S. practice. Applicants also add claims to the right of priority and benefit. Additionally, Applicants amend the paragraph on page 3, at lines 13-33, to improve clarity, and cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2-54. The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification. No new matter was introduced.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment,  
please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
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Dated: July 10, 2002

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**APPENDIX TO SUBSTITUTE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT DATED JULY 10, 2002**

**Amendments to the Specification**

On page 3, lines 13-33, please amend the paragraph beginning "The Applicant has now found that . . . .", as follows:

The Applicant has now found that, in consequence of a mechanical damage which creates a discontinuity in at least one of the cable coating layers, it is possible to obtain effective self-repairing of the coating by virtue of the presence of an inner layer, placed, for example, between the insulating layer and the outer [sheath, this] sheath. This inner layer [comprising] comprises [of] a material having a predetermined cohesiveness and, at the same time, a controlled flowability, which is capable of repairing the damage by restoring the continuity of the coating layer. After creation of a discontinuity in the coating, the material "moves" towards the point of damage and fills up, at least partly, the discontinuity by forming a substantially continuous layer which is capable of maintaining the functionality of the cable under the expected working conditions. The action of the self-repairing material, which occurs with a [revesible] reversible mechanism, prevents, among other things, moisture infiltration and establishment of leakage currents, and thus a quick corrosion of the conductor.